SUMMER 2026

FREE

FAITH WALK DEVOTIONAL

FEATURING:
PRAYER WALK MAP

Soulitude

ADD DEPTH & MEANING
TO YOUR STAY

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES TOOLKIT

PERRY PARK, LAKESIDE, OHIO

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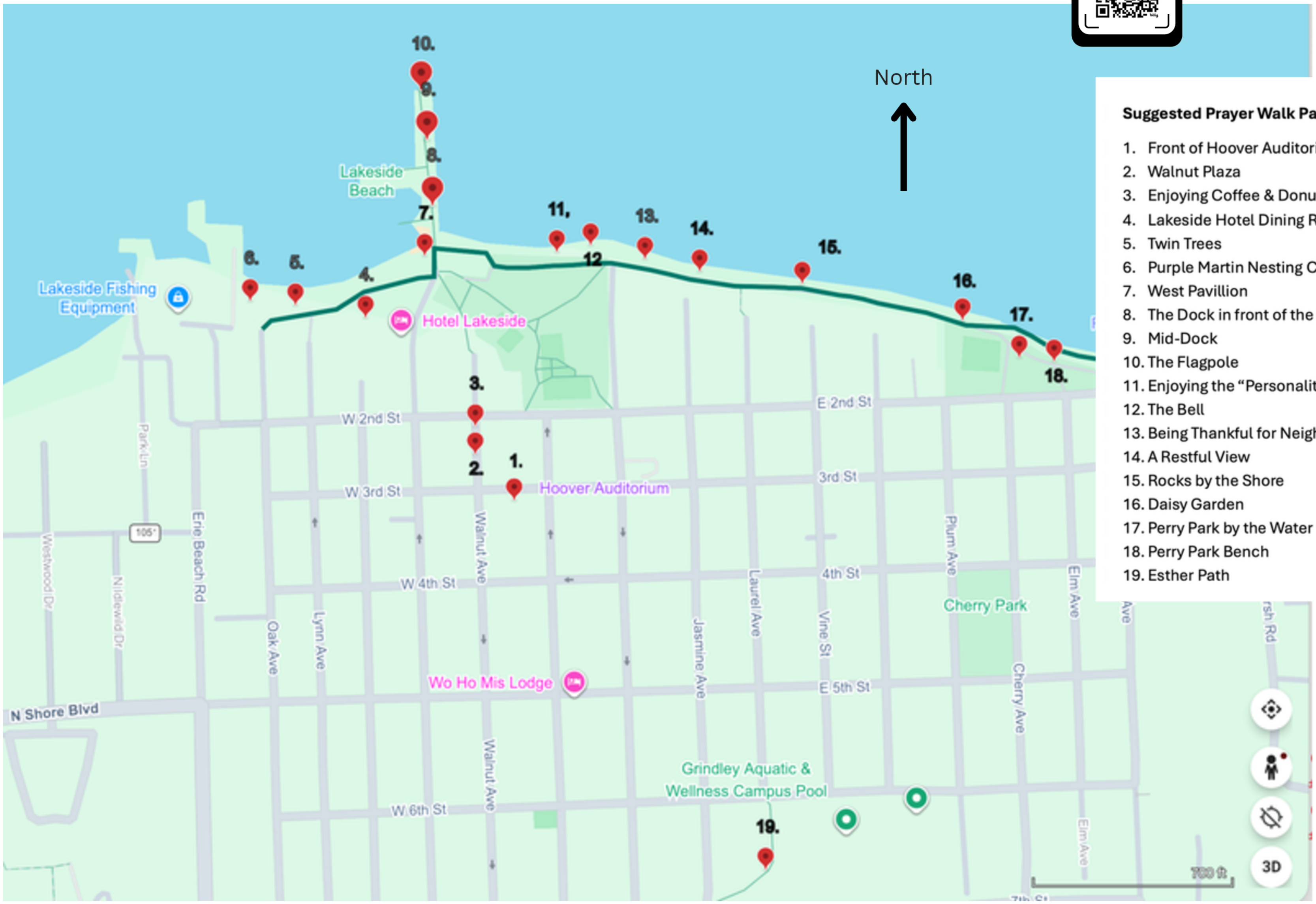
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Lakeside Fishing Equipment
Lakeside Beach
Hotel Lakeside
Hoover Auditorium
Wo Ho Mis Lodge
Grindley Aquatic & Wellness Campus Pool
Cherry Park
N Shore Blvd
Westwood Dr
Nildewild Dr
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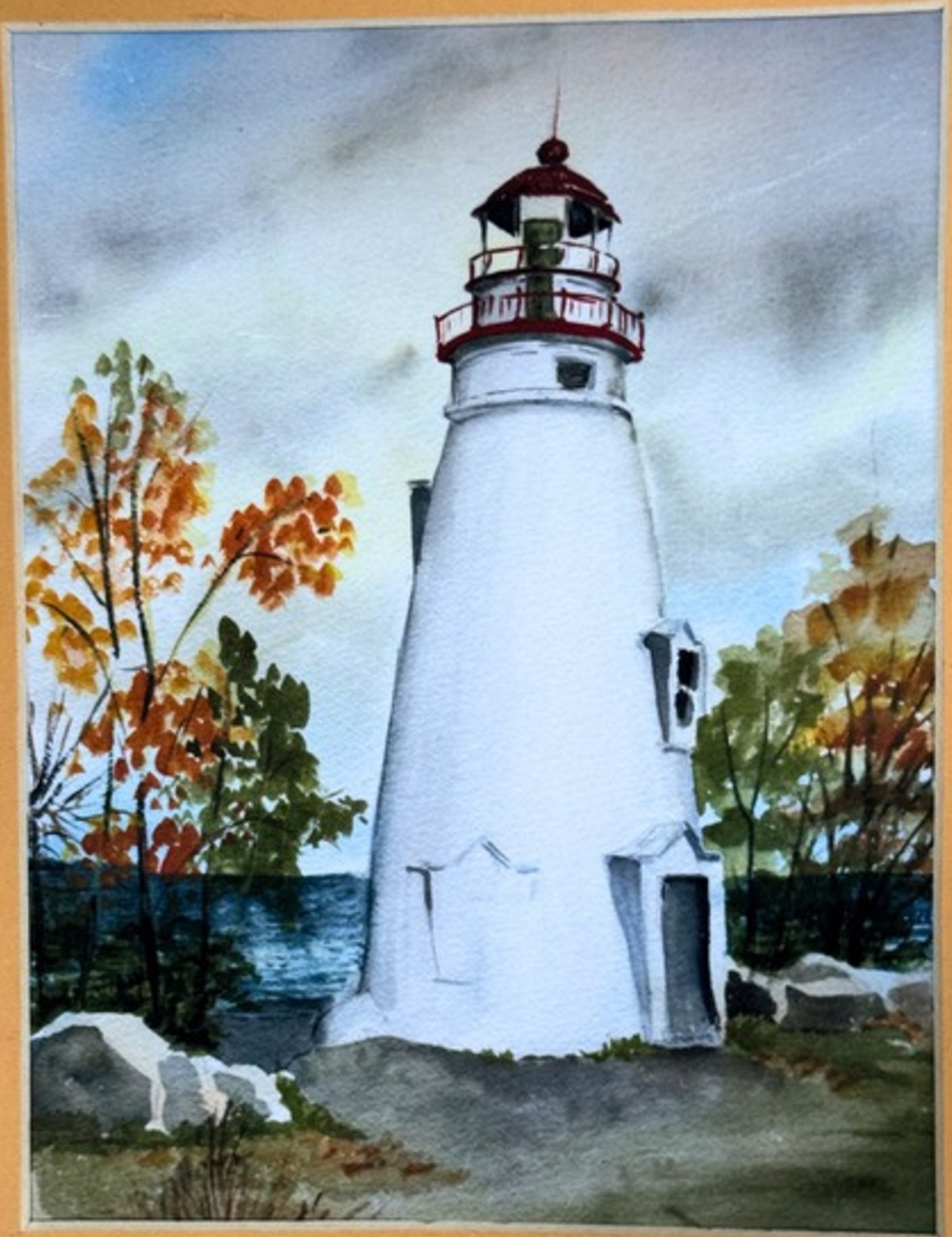
Suggested Prayer Walk Pathway

1. Front of Hoover Auditorium
2. Walnut Plaza
3. Enjoying Coffee & Donuts
4. Lakeside Hotel Dining Room
5. Twin Trees
6. Purple Martin Nesting Condos
7. West Pavillion
8. The Dock in front of the Pavilion/Carillon
9. Mid-Dock
10. The Flagpole
11. Enjoying the "Personality" of the Lake
12. The Bell
13. Being Thankful for Neighbors
14. A Restful View
15. Rocks by the Shore
16. Daisy Garden
17. Perry Park by the Water
18. Perry Park Bench
19. Esther Path



Betsy (Boehm) Hileman (1953 - 2026)

Soulitude

GENERAL EDITOR

REV. KIMBERLY C. ORR

Welcome to Lakeside.

As you arrive through these hallowed gates, you have permission to set aside the stress and the distractions that have been tugging at you. You have a standing invitation to just be. Walk at a slower pace and embrace a journey of rediscovery and recovery.

The Spirit of Peace calls to you. You can sense that Presence in the crash of the waves, the rustle of leaves, the flight of birds, the ground under your feet, the curve of the paths, and the faces of the people around you. Dare to MOVE through Lakeside with intention, to truly BREATHE in and OBSERVE the beauty and awe around you, to pause and PRAY, and to lean into REFLECTION.

SOULITUDE: Faith Walk Devotional is a gift from Lakeside's Department of Religious Life, created as an immersive, soul-level reset guide.

Our prayer is that your time here at Lakeside will be freeing, joyful, and life-giving. If we can offer pastoral support while you are here, please don't hesitate to call (567) 252-4058, and your call will be answered within 24 hours.

Thank you for choosing Lakeside as part of your summer. May this space and time serve as a nexus of renewal for you and those you love.

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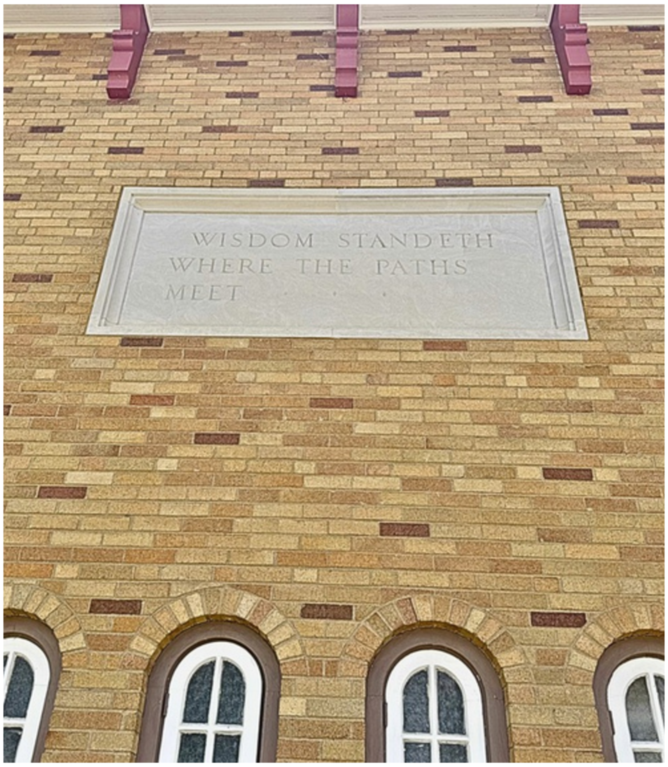
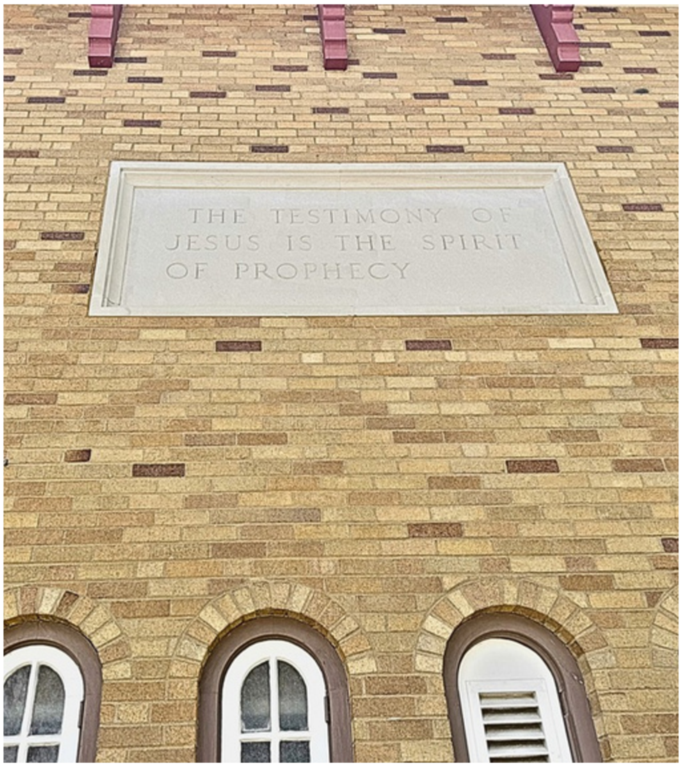
"To pay attention, this is our endless and proper work."
~ Mary Oliver, Pulitzer-Prize-winning poet

1. Set in Stone

"On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads [Wisdom] takes her stand;" - Proverbs 8:9
"Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers and sisters who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'" - Revelation 19:10





I've long been fascinated by the words chiseled into the panels on the front of Hoover Auditorium. What do they mean? Why those words? If scripture, why not a reference? What was the message that a past generation of Lakesiders left for us? Thinking, praying about those words has been one of the thinnest of thin spots for me.

The words about Wisdom come from Proverbs 8:2. Where paths meet brings to mind our purpose as a Chautauqua, it is what we strive for, to be a place to meet where our ideas, our beliefs can meet another's in hopes of growing our mutual wisdom that we may share it outside the gates wherever God leads us. But, how do we know if it's the right path?

The other panel comes from Revelation 19:10. The word "prophecy" can mean prediction, and it challenges us to test our wisdom. Comparing where I think paths meet or should meet against the teachings of Jesus. Will the direction I want to go help me love God and love my neighbor as myself? Will it help feed the hungry, heal the wounded, will it help me to act fairly, to love kindness, and walk humbly with God? It's a thin spot that sometimes I don't want to leave, but must.

BY DAVE BOLING

Prayer Prompts:

God, what new sources of wisdom are you inviting me to receive from today?
Where am I being called to move from self-preservation into sacrificial love for my neighbor?

2. Saturday Silence

"The voice of the Lord is over the waters...the voice of the Lord is majestic...the Lord gives strength to His people, the Lord blesses His people with Peace." - Psalm 29: 3-9

W Second
No Bikes, Scooters or Golf Carts

Saturday's chimes swinging from *Marilyn's* storefront in Walnut Plaza seemed loud amid a nearby couple's chitter-chatter. The musical tones floating on the wind merged with the carillon's hymns. Ironically, sitting silently seemed to be what I was called to do in that moment.

Thin spaces between the noise of the world and God's abode were present, even if I entered them somewhat involuntarily, distracted at first. The sounds faded. Sitting next to the oversized chess pieces, I realized I was exactly where God wanted me to be.

Breathing in the clear, abundant lake air, I felt grateful for this moment in sacred time. It was a call to prayer. My inability to explain it did not matter.

The words, "Here I am, Lord," came to mind. In that precious moment, I was invited to sit at the feet of Jesus in Galilee. Any questions I might have asked seemed less important than simply pausing to listen.

The Lord comes to us as total Gift. God's strength and power are evident at Lakeside—especially for me on that Saturday. Christ's presence within transformed all the noise of my world into a holy hush.

BY LYNNE GALLISON

Prayer Prompts:

Lord, what are the noises in my life that need to be "turned down" so that I may focus on your voice?
What noise(s) in my life are you inviting me to release into your peace and presence?

3. Sweet Sacrament

"O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him." - Psalm 34:8

Mornings at Lakeside flow into their own kind of liturgy. The day begins to stir, and there you are: a donut from *The Patio* in one hand, coffee from *Coffee & Cream* in the other. No robes, no altar, no hymnbook. And still, something sacred comes into being.

Steam rises like a small prayer. You lift the cup, and for a moment, the world narrows to warmth and joy. Sometimes God is embodied in the simplest of moments.

The rocking porch-sitters, early walkers, bicycles clicking by, a child with sugared fingers and a gleeful giggle, all gather in community... a common-union organically emerges.

Sip and bite, pause and notice. The gentle wind of the Spirit moves among us all. Christ meets us at scattered tables and benches.

There is room enough for everyone. In the laughter, the familiar greetings, the giving and receiving.

Beyond the cup and chew, gently the voice of God begins to whisper, "Be present even as I am present; taste and see that where I am, there you may be also."

BY STAFF

Prayer Prompts:

Jesus, help me to see you in the ordinary gifts of this day.

How can I become more aware of your presence in food, friendship, laughter, and rest?

4. God’s Banquet Table

“Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine.”
— John 21:12, KJV

I have always loved sitting down at a table set with white tablecloths, fine china, cloth napkins, and small glass salt and pepper shakers with silver tops, with coffee served in white cups on matching saucers. I know that good food will be served, and I anticipate it with quiet excitement. That is what my husband and I experienced last summer in the dining room of the historic Hotel Lakeside. The small flowers on our table made me especially happy. Even now, when I look at the snapshot I took, it still brings me joy.

God always has a table set and invites us to come and dine. Sitting at God’s table is not the same as the good things we experience in this life, though they are meaningful. God’s words are more than food. Once you have tasted the sweetness of the Word and have known God’s goodness, those moments of fellowship stay with you, as do the prayers answered along the way.

In the fall after that visit, I faced one of the hardest seasons of my life. I fractured my back and experienced pain and muscle spasms so severe that I could not lift myself out of bed. I wondered what the future would hold. In that time, the promises in the Scripture became everything to me. I trusted that God would bring me through, and he did.

I look forward to returning to Hotel Lakeside with my husband this summer. We will walk through the lobby into the dining room, look out the large windows over the lake, and sit again at a table with flowers. I will remember how God heard my prayers and brought me back.

BY ANITA M. DAVIDSON

Prayer prompts:
God, where/when have you prepared a place for me even when I felt weary, sick, or alone?
What memories of your provision can I bring back into prayer today?

5. Standing Together

"..all the trees of the fields will clap their hands."
— Isaiah 55:12, WEB

At the west end of the Lakeside campus, massive twin cottonwoods have borne witness to generations of passers-by. Their roots and branches have intertwined. Their bark has grown thick and furrowed. Ice, wind, and insects have claimed a branch or two, yet they still stand strong—together.

If you allow silence to gather around you and look long enough, you may glimpse a nuthatch bouncing up a trunk, defying gravity as she twitters along. The ridges and cracks that give these old companions character also provide the micro-environment for her avian snack. Even the rough places can hold hidden nourishment.

From beginning to end, Scripture is filled with trees. Genesis gives us the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad and the Tree of Life. Revelation 22 returns us to the Tree of Life beside the river of God, its leaves offered "for the healing of the nations."

Which tree will we choose to sit under? Will we divide and atomize ourselves until we no longer desire holy cohesion? Or will we choose life: rootedness, mercy, compassion, shared shade, and healing?

The cottonwoods and the nuthatch draw us into the biblical imagination. The tree does not ask the bird to become rooted. The bird does not ask the tree to fly. Each lives according to its own created calling, and yet their lives touch. One offers bark, shelter, and food. The other offers movement, song, and a small bright sign that life still finds a way among the scars.

So it is with us. We are not made for sameness. We are made for communion. May these cottonwoods teach us to remain rooted. May the nuthatch teach us to trust the rough places. May the Tree of Life teach us to become a place of healing for one another. BY STAFF

Prayer prompts:

Lord, who are you asking me to stand beside with humility and patience?
Where do I need deeper roots of mercy, compassion, and shared strength?

6. A Community of Grace

"See the birds of the sky, that they don't sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns. Your heavenly Father feeds them." Matthew 6:26

The purple Martin bird houses near the west end of Ohio's most beautiful mile offer an out-of-the-way spot to stop and pay attention to the sights and sounds of the season. During late spring, the Martins swirl and weave above the lake, returning to their nesting condos to begin the methodical process of raising offspring amid the clamor of the avian community.

The return of the Martins signals the start of another Lakeside summer. A time for reunions, introductions, porch conversations, music, donuts, coffee, worship, and contemplative walks beside the lake. Stopping to watch and listen. In a community shaped by reflection and renewal, the nesting condos stand as an ongoing invitation to "consider the birds of the air."

Jesus often referred to creation to help us better understand the kingdom of God. In Matthew 6, Jesus points to the birds and the flowers as examples of trust, belonging, and expectation of divine care.

The Martins embody these virtues beautifully. Even when an invasive House Sparrow moves in, they allow the interloper to remain. Welcomed into the cacophony of nest-building, food-gathering, and chirping nestlings. A window into a community shaped by grace, hospitality, and trust in God's provision for all who may fly by for a season.

BY STAFF

Prayer prompts:

God, how are you stretching me to make room for others in my life?
Where/to whom can I practice hospitality, trust, and gentle belonging today?

7. Sunset Praise

"Those who live at the end of the earth stand in awe of your wonders. From where the sun rises to where it sets, you inspire shouts of joy." - Psalm 65:8

Every Sunday, late in the day at Lakeside, there is Sunset Praise, a gathering of voices lifted in song to the Lord. We pause from the joys of swimming, crafting, and eating ice cream to honor our God. With humble hearts, we gather at the pavilion on the shores of Lake Erie. The people on the dock below seem to fade as we enter the moment and rest in God's embrace. My voice blends with others, forming a shared devotion to God. Those present are not just members of a church, but one voice in harmony, joined with one purpose.

As the sun moves lower in the sky, shades of red, orange, and yellow reflect on the water. Each evening, the sky becomes a different work of art, a quiet witness to divine love. In this moment, God's presence is in the wind and dwells among us. The sun rests on the horizon, and we sing, "How Great Thou Art."

We pause to remember all God has done. With one heart, we give thanks for these blessings and for another day. It feels like a thin place where heaven touches the earth.

When I return to my home far from Lakeside, I often think about the Sunday sunsets at Lakeside. I realize that sunsets happen daily in my own neighborhood. At sunrise, I am inspired to sing and dedicate the day to God. At sunset, I pause to notice God's work across the sky. Most of all, I praise God and remember God's faithfulness. My heart is full of joy. Thank you, Lord, for this day.

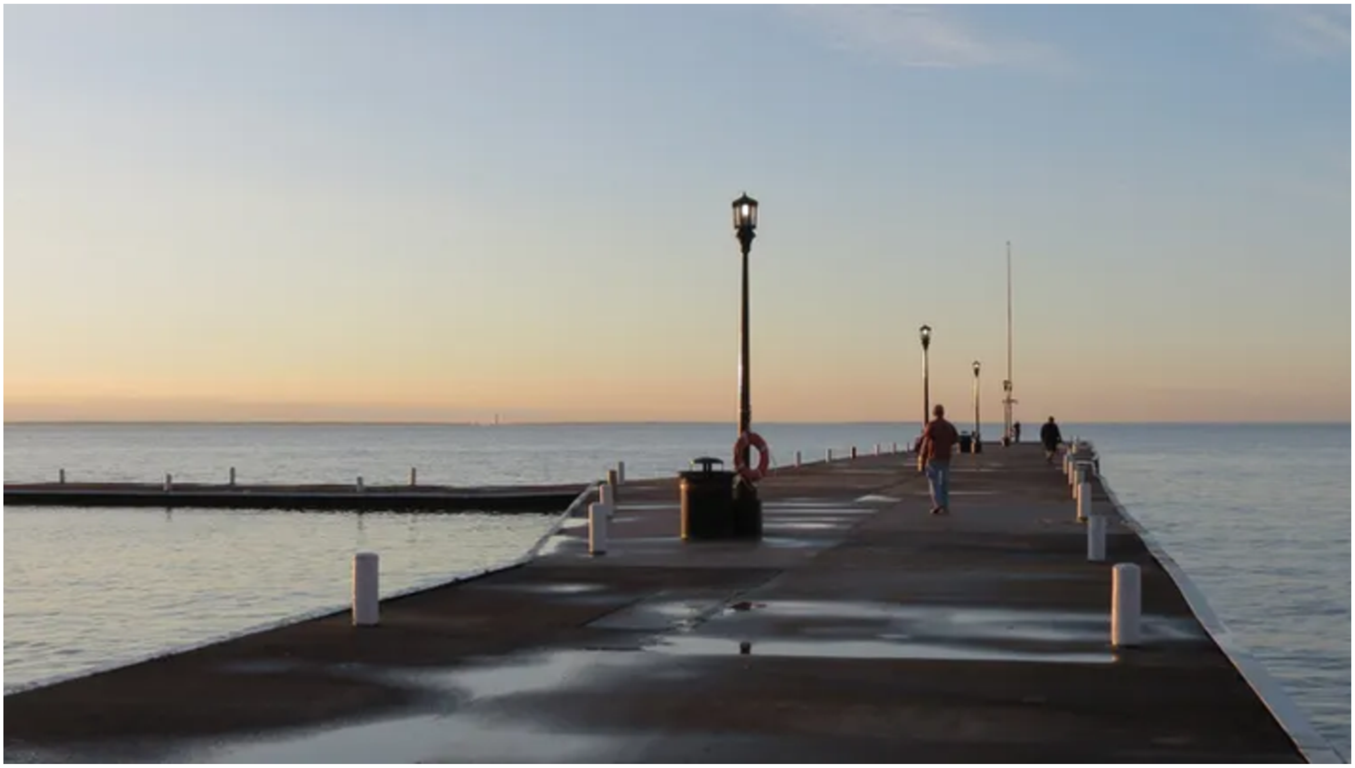
BY TAFFY REED

Prayer prompts:

Lord, what small beauty today is calling me into praise of you?
How can I carry gratitude with me into the rest of my day when I leave a sacred place or moment?

8. Portable Stillness

"Come away by yourselves to a quiet place and rest a while." - Mark 6:31



My first stop when I arrive at Lakeside is the dock. I think of it as a path to a thin place, and something in me settles as soon as I step onto it. The sky feels closer, the air lighter, and the sun warms more than just my skin.

Before long, I notice the rhythm of life around me. Fishermen line the north end, quietly working their lines. Young people stretch out in the sun. Others sit with books in hand. I find an iron bench and look up at clouds stretched like cotton across a bright blue sky. Seagulls gather and call out as someone reels in a catch, and I remember the story of Jesus guiding his followers where to cast their nets.

Out on the water, sailboats move slowly across the horizon. Every so often, a wave reaches the pier and splashes up, catching us by surprise.

Then the chimes begin.

From the Pavilion comes the familiar tune, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." I find myself mouthing the words as the sun lowers. People gather quietly for the evening's display, and as the sun slips beneath the horizon, a stillness settles over us. For a moment, no one moves. We simply remain.

When I stand to leave, I carry that stillness with me. It feels like a gift.

BY SUSAN LEFFARD

Prayer prompts:

Lord, how can I carry stillness and steadiness with me beyond this moment?
What sound, sight, or rhythm can serve as an anchor, tethering me back to your love and grounding me?

9. Room to Rest

"In returning and rest you will be saved. Your strength will be in quietness and in confidence."
— Isaiah 30:15, WEB

Some mornings at Lakeside, the lake feels almost impossibly still. Standing at the end of the dock, you can watch the water hold the sky like a mirror—soft blues, early gold, the faintest trace of pink. It is a quiet that does not demand anything. It simply invites you to breathe.

I have often found myself returning to Psalm 46:10 in moments like this: "Be still and know that I am God." Not as a command to stop moving or thinking, but as a gentle reminder that God's presence is not earned through effort. It's already here, woven into the ordinary rhythms of our days.

I feel a quiet nudge, almost like God whispering, "You do not have to hold everything together. I'm already holding you."

There are times when walking on the grounds of Lakeside before anyone else is out that are so meaningful. The dew clings to the grass, and the air carries that familiar mix of lake water and old trees.

Maybe you have had moments like that, too. Moments when the world slows just enough for you to notice the grace that's been there all along.

So today, wherever you are, perhaps take a breath. Look for the small signs of God's steady work, light on the water, the kindness of a neighbor, the peace that comes without explanation. These are reminders that God meets us not only in grand revelations, but in the quiet places where our souls finally have room to rest.
BY CHARLES ALLEN

Prayer prompts:
Lord, I will stop and breathe when and where I need you most.
What do I need to loosen my grip on so I can truly allow you to steady me?

10. Finding God at the Flagpole

“Where can I go to escape Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence?" --Psalm 139:7

As a kid growing up on the Marblehead Peninsula, I mostly visited Lakeside in the off-season, when locals could enter freely instead of sneaking through holes in the fence. I often sat at the end of the dock, my back against the flagpole, talking to God about questions great and small.

In the fall, crisp, clear days brought grand vistas of the horizon. They deepened my awareness of God’s immensity and transcendent presence. I felt safe, yet insignificant.

In the spring, fog often rolled in, thick and still. It obscured the panoramic views, and I’d sit against the flagpole, unable to see more than a few yards in any direction. It felt as though I were on a concrete raft, becalmed on a sea of imminent mystery. In those moments, God seemed close, attentive to me alone. I felt valued, yet lovingly held accountable.

These moments bring to mind the twin visions of creation in Genesis: one in which God is transcendent, forming all from beyond; another in which God walks in the garden, conversing with humans. God is far and near — and both are gifts. I have experienced these gifts while sitting with my back against that flagpole — the one crowned with a cross.

BY DAN MOULTON

Prayer prompts:

God, how are you reminding me of your presence within mystery, fog, or uncertainty?
How can I become more attentive to your nearness to me?

"I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order."
~ John Burroughs, American naturalist and essayist

A Spiritual Practices Toolkit for All Those Who May Wander and Wonder

What this is: A simple, non-denominational toolkit inspired by spiritual practices found across the Abrahamic faith traditions.

What this is not: A replacement for your tradition-specific rites or rituals. Use this guide with humility, gratitude, and respect.

Ground rules for participation:

- **Arrive:** breathe, pause, notice the ground beneath your feet and your surroundings.
- **Remember:** name what is sacred, sustaining, life-giving, or true.
- **Tell the truth to yourself and others respectfully:** honor grief, gratitude, fear, joy, longing, common human experiences. Be kind.
- **Listen without preparing your next statement.** Listen twice; speak once.
- **Respond graciously:** bless, rest, give, repair, ask for help, walk, let go.
- **Send:** close your practice with blessings of peace for yourself, others, and the world.

Wandering and wondering are not failure. Being gentle with ourselves/others and offering gestures of return and wholeness to ourselves/others is the practice.

Language

Choose names for the Divine that are honest and meaningful to you. God, Holy One, Creator, Merciful One, Great Love, Mystery, Source, Peace, or no words at all... simply hold silence and awe.

Core phrases

"I am here. Help me to listen beyond myself"

"Mercy, hold me in this uncertainty"

"Peace, be near."

"I receive. I release."

"May every step become prayer"

Group Intentions

- Non-participation is a valid choice.
- No one has to speak aloud, disclose pain, use a specific name for God, or receive touch.
- Keep verbal sharing brief, truthful, and non-anxious, and do not seek to fix others.
- Offer insights and wisdom, only when invited to do so.

The goal is not performance nor perfection. The goal is simply becoming... fully present to the Divine, yourself, and to others.

Closing Blessings Examples:

"May peace rest on this house, this body, this path, and this day"

"May grief be held, waiting be strengthened, healing be welcomed, joy be received, and wonder be restored."

"May I bend toward become a person of mercy, courage, humility, and love."

These practices are not formulas, but invitations. Please adapt them as needed to enrich your own spiritual experience. In group settings, no one is required to participate in any particular way; each person is encouraged to engage at the level that feels comfortable and meaningful for them.

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Practices for Movement and Gathering

Movement Prayer / Small Pilgrimage

When experiencing times of discernment, grief, transition, wonder.

- Try to notice at least three things as you move:
    - the ground - what supports me;
    - the sky - what is larger than me;
    - your neighbor - who shares this world.

At the Halfway Point: What am I invited to release? What am I invited to receive? What am I invited to observe as it passes by?

Wonder Movement / Praise

When experiencing joy, curiosity, numbness, awe.

- Outside or at a window, notice five things you did not make and cannot control: *e.g.,* ight, rain, birds, clouds, trees, breath, etc.
- *These are gifts.*
- Ask: *"What kind of world have I been living in without really noticing?"*

Lament Bowl

When experiencing grief, anger, injustice, heartbreak.

- Place an empty bowl in the center of your space.
- Add in a stone or a slip of paper for each burden you carry. As you place the symbolic object speak, "*This is what I carry. As I release it, let this be held in grace.*"
- Close by saying: *"I do not have to resolve all that i carry today. I simply hope for enough light to walk my next step."*

Healing Circle

When experiencing llness, recovery, caregiving, emotional pain.

- Draw a circle on paper, in the sand, etc. Write a name or concern within the bounds of the circle.
- As you write each name/concern, speak, "*May healing come in body, mind, memory, and spirit. May strength rise for for all who surround.*"
- Each person may offer one brief blessing: Speak, *"May you be held. May fear loosen its grip."*

Sacred Reading / Listening

When needing wisdom, guidance, humility.

Choose a short sacred or wisdom text. Read it aloud three times slowly.

- First reading: What word or phrase stands out?
- Second reading: What touches my life right now?
- Third reading: What response is invited?

May wisdom birth practice.

Naming, Mercy, and Hospitality

When experiencing helplessness, loneliness, compassion fatigue.

- Ask yourself: *Who in my life (perhaps even myself) needs to know mercy and compassion rather than harshness or correction?*
- *How can I begin to understand that my true self is beloved and enough?*
- *What feels heavy? What brings life? What words of grace do you need to hear?*

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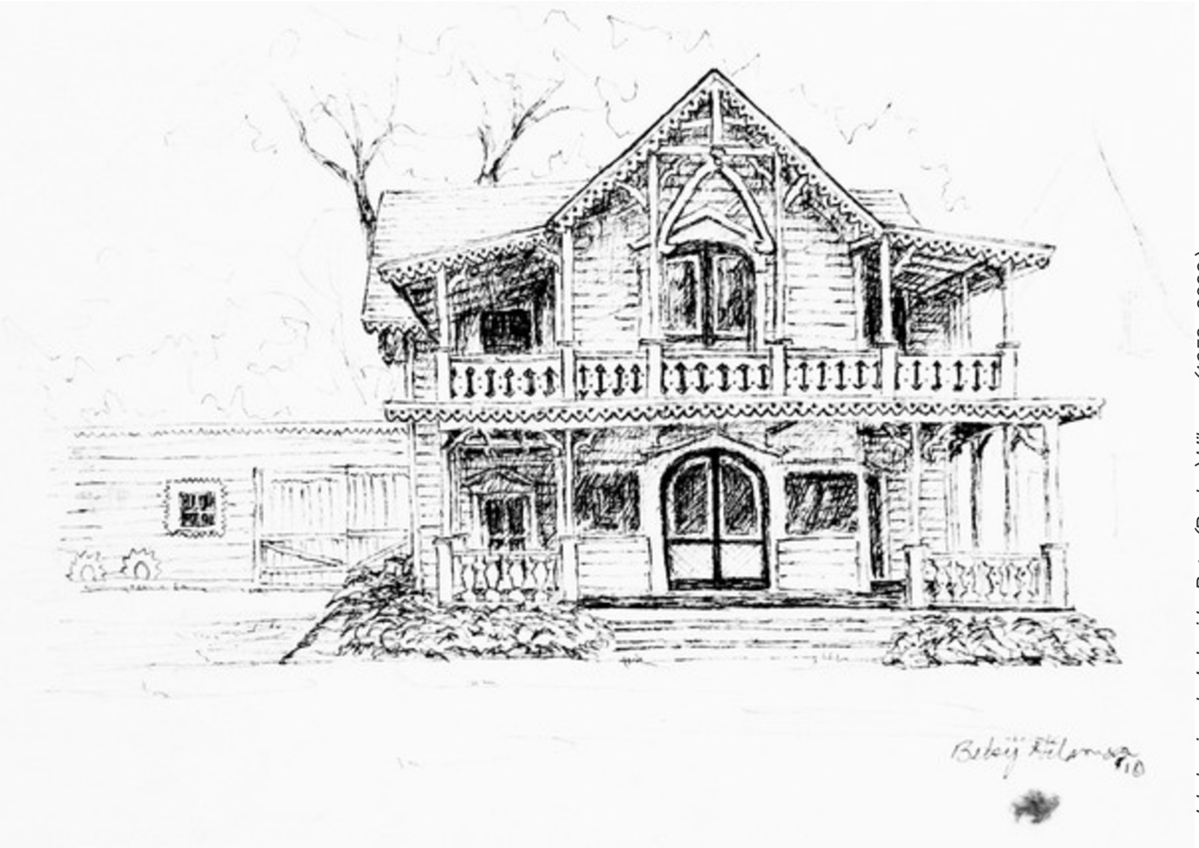
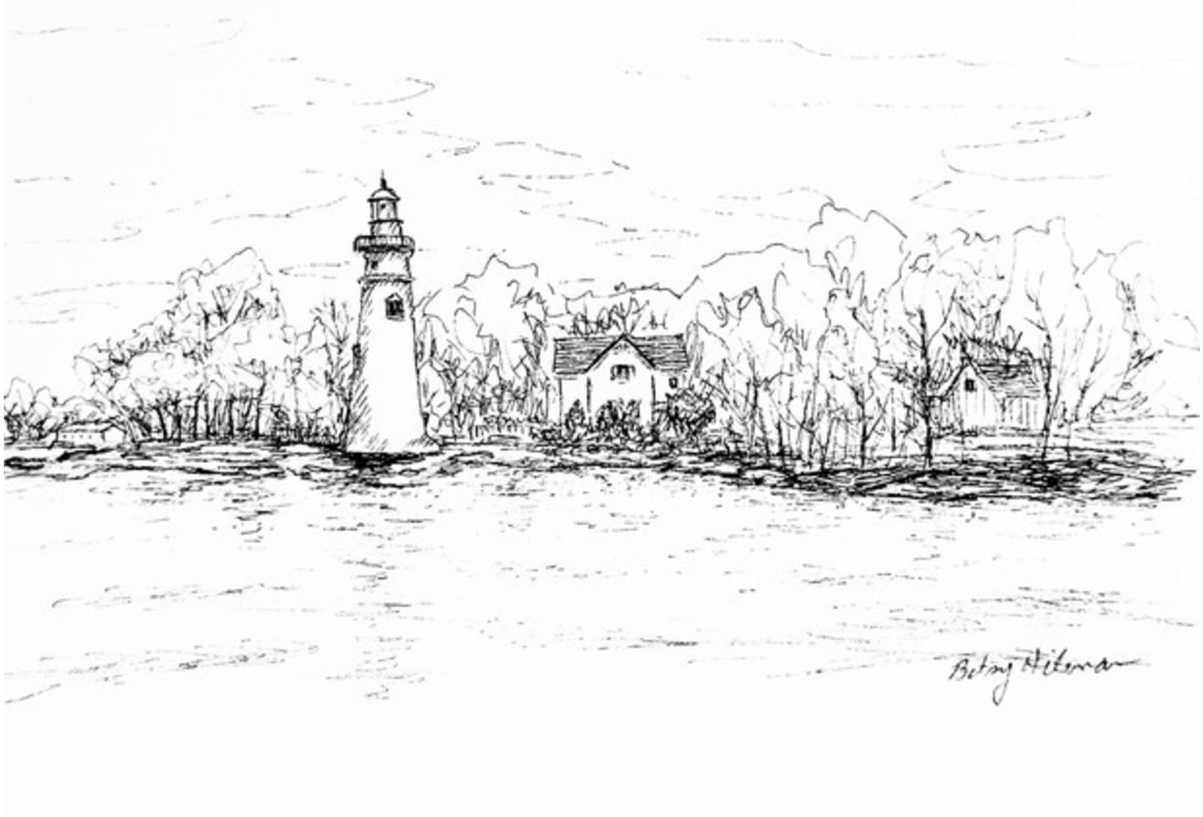

Betsy Hileman '10

Ink drawings by Lakesider Betsy (Boehm) Hileman (1953 - 2026)

"Come home to God, and you will no longer feel like a stranger to yourself or the world."
~ Henri J. M. Nouwen, a Dutch Catholic priest and spiritual writer who served at L'Arche Daybreak in Canada.


Betsy Hileman

11. Personality

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." - Ephesians 4:2.

I recently read a description of the lake that spoke of watching the changes on its ever-varying face. At times, it draws us in with its calm and quiet. At other moments, it stirs with energy or rests in a deep midday blue. People have watched and wondered at these waters for generations.

The lake seems to carry different expressions. There are days when it is gentle, when the water moves softly along the shore. There are other times when it is unsettled, and waves break hard against the rocks. Over time, we come to recognize these patterns and live alongside them.

The word “personality” often brings to mind people as well. Each person carries their own ways of being, their own rhythms and responses.

In close relationships, these differences become familiar. There is a kind of learning that takes place as we live with one another.

The lake does not pretend. It reflects the winds and temperatures that shape it. There is something steady in that honesty.

Perhaps there is space here to notice the ways we encounter one another, in all our variety. Scripture speaks of loving God fully, and of loving our neighbor as ourselves. It also speaks of patience and gentleness, and of bearing with one another in love.

BY ANN SCHNAPP

Prayer prompts:

God, how are you teaching me to receive others as they are, not to try to fix them?
Where are you calling me to practice patience, compassion, gentleness, and love amid difference?

12. Holding Fast

"Even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast." - Psalm 139:10

Along the Lake Erie coast, there is a sense of the vastness of God. And also the fastness of God. The psalmist wrote that God's "right hand will hold me fast." Even on the distant shore, God's hand guides. Wherever we go, across distance or through time, God is present.

Stand near the old bell east of the Pavilion and look out across the lake. There is a sense of history there. It is Lakeside's history, and in some ways, your own. It can also bring to mind a kind of spiritual history.

It is a place to pause and reflect. To remember how faith has taken shape over time. For some, that may go back to childhood. For others, to the teenage years, or to a later moment when awareness of God became clearer. There may also be seasons that felt more distant.

The journey of faith moves through all of this. At times, attention shifts to daily routines, and it becomes easy to lose sight of the One who remains present.

Looking out over the water can reframe that. The horizon stretches wide, and the moment opens.

There is time here to breathe, to notice, and to give thanks. The psalmist's words linger, a quiet reminder of the One who holds fast within the vastness.

BY SHIRLEY NYHAN

Prayer prompts:

God, which of your truths or promises do I need to lean into right now?
Where are you inviting me to pause, breathe, notice, and give thanks?

13. Neighbors

"And who is my neighbor?"
-Luke 10:29

Jesus was asked by the religious leaders which of the commandments was the most important. He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. And the second is like it: love your neighbor as yourself." Then came the question, "Who is my neighbor?" In response, Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan.

In that story, neighbor is not limited to a friend or relative. It is not only the person met while walking around Lakeside, enjoying the view, or sharing a doughnut or a latte. Neighbor also includes the one who may seem different in appearance, language, background, or perspective.

The story opens space for reflection. Many can recall times when help came at just the right moment, when someone stepped in with care and presence. These moments often remain clear in memory.

The hymn "Count Your Blessings" says, "Count your blessings, name them one by one." In a similar way, memories of those who have shown kindness come to mind. In them, something of God's care is seen.

The story of the Good Samaritan continues to echo, inviting attention to the ways love is given and received.

BY DAVID WITT

Prayer prompts:
God, who are you calling me to see as my neighbor today?
What spaces are you inviting me into to encounter someone I might otherwise overlook?

14. Desire for Rest

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away" -Revelation 21:4

It was only a few short years ago that my husband introduced me to Lakeside, a place he and his family had visited for generations. It was early August, and the warm evening sun sparkled across the water as we took our first stroll along the lakefront. I remember so vividly being in awe of the flowers that lined the pathway. They seemed even more striking set against the blue water and wide sky.

After we returned home, I found myself thinking often of that view, quietly counting down the days until we would visit again. Somehow, having that beauty ahead of me made the cold days of winter feel a little less heavy.

Many of us know that feeling. When our thoughts drift toward summer days at the lake, they reveal something about what we carry inside. There is a longing there. A desire for rest. Scripture points to a deeper rest still, one that reaches beyond any place we can visit, toward the promise of being with God.

When a trip to Lakeside is ahead, it can steady us through the gray and the cold. In a similar way, the hope of eternal life in the presence of our loving God can steady us in the midst of life as it is now. Holding that promise can shape how we move through each day, how we care for others, and how we use the time we have.

BY EMMA HORD

Prayer prompts:
Lord, what kind of rest is my being truly longing for?
How can I receive your care and plentitude instead of carrying some of my burdens alone?

15. Rock of My Soul

"He restores my soul" - Ps 23:3

The Bible presents solitude as a vital spiritual discipline for resting, restoring, and finding deep communion with God, rather than merely being alone. It is used to withdraw from distractions, hear God's voice, and renew the soul, with Jesus modeling this by often retreating to quiet, desolate places.

- Solitude is essential for emotional and spiritual renewal, as the Psalms show.
- The Bible encourages being silent before God to recognize his sovereignty ("Be still, and know that I am God" - Ps 46:10).
- The soul finds its rest and hope in God alone during times of solitude (Ps 62:5)

Lakeside. For some, it is simply a vacation destination. Fun activities, shops, good food, friends, and family. To others, it is a place of peace and refuge, a place to slow down and appreciate God's beauty.

To me, Lakeside is all of the above and much more. I have been coming to Lakeside since my teenage years. First, as a camper at the yearly youth church camp. Then, as a young wife and mother. Now my husband and I bring our children and grandchildren to experience all that Lakeside has to offer. There have also been times in my life when I have "run away" to this place for solitude, reflection, and seeking God's guidance. Lakeside is where I can leave behind the world and breathe. As soon as I step on the grounds, my shoulders release their tension. I walk the parks and the mile path, taking in God's beauty. I take time to appreciate and admire his handiwork. But my spot--the place in Lakeside where I find my state of "Soulitude"--is the big rocks by the water. I can breathe there. God meets me there, no matter where I am in my walk with him. He has been there when the waters are calm, the sun is shining down, warming my skin, while I soak my feet in the water. He has met me when I am at unease, anxious, and can't figure out why on my own. He is there when not only am I raging inside, but standing above the rocks, letting the stormy waves crash up and soak my clothes. God meets me there. At Lakeside. On those rocks. For sunrises, noonday sun, sunsets, and night solace. He meets me there to seek him through prayer, silence, contemplation, praise, and song. I am so grateful to him for giving me a place to find "Soulitude." BY MELISSA ROSE

Prayer prompts:

God, what thoughts, fears, etc. do I need you to steady and restore today?

What place, practice, or memory helps me return to you in prayer?

16. A Time for Everything

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven." - Ecclesiastes 3:1

As a fifth-generation Lakesider, I carry not only my own memories of summer, but also those shared by my parents, grandparents, and earlier generations. Ours are mostly summer memories, though Lakeside is beautiful in every season. Some family members visit in early spring to choose a cottage, and others return for the Fall Festival.

For me, Lakeside has always been a spiritual place. Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a time for everything, "a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to be silent and a time to speak. He has made everything beautiful in its time."

My parents placed a brick near Heritage Hall that reads, "Heaven on Earth." That is how Lakeside has always felt to me.

As a child, it was my favorite place. I rode my bike through the streets, played in Central Park, and spent hours at the dock with my cousins, wading in the water. In the evenings, we dressed up and went to programs at Hoover Auditorium.

As I grew older, those patterns continued. I rode my bike, played tennis, swam off the dock, and attended concerts and services. I began to pay closer attention to the messages shared each week.

Years later, during cancer treatments, I pictured Lakeside. My doctor suggested imagining a place of peace, and this was the place I chose. Those memories helped me through long days. After my final treatment, we returned with our young children.

Now I share Lakeside with my grandchildren. It remains my "Heaven on Earth." BY CONSTANCE DANIELS

Prayer prompts:

. Lord, in my current season of life, how are you uniquely present within it?
What memories, griefs, changes, or hopes do I need to place gently in your hands?

17. In a Moment

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. -Hebrews 10:24-25

Tonight was Lakeside's fireworks off the dock. Blankets stretched across the grass like a patchwork quilt, each family offering a square. Faded bedspreads touched edge to edge, forming soft borders that children easily crossed as they ran and played. Everywhere, people greeted those they hadn't seen since last summer—hugs, handshakes, laughter.

As the sky darkened, no one knew exactly when the show would begin. Games appeared, books opened, and children stayed happily occupied. Glow-in-the-dark necklaces shimmered like royal jewels, small lights in the gathering dusk. We sat close; close enough to see one another, close enough to belong. Someone said, "Next year, we'll need another blanket." I paused and took it in. Joy was everywhere. Christ was present in the closeness, in the simple act of being together. The real gift wasn't the fireworks, but the love shared in the waiting. Phones were set aside, burdens loosened, and people leaned into one another. We waited. Holding hands, singing softly, sharing space. It felt, in a small way, like heaven.

Then it began.

All eyes lifted as the sky burst into color. Crack, boom, sizzle! Lights flared and faded, each display giving way to the next. But I found myself looking away, watching the faces around me... at my children, family, friends, and neighbors. The fireworks reflected in their eyes, and in that glow I saw something greater: the beauty of God's gift, not just in the sky, but in the people I love.

The finale rose in a rush of sound and light, a cascade of brilliance. Applause broke out, cheers echoing across the lawn. For a moment, all of Lakeside was one: gathered, joyful, and close. BY CHRISSY KILEY

Prayer prompts:

Lord, bring to mind those moments of joy or connection that are reminders of your grace and provision.

How can I become more aware of the people around me and of your presence among us?

18. The Sound of Silence

And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.
-1 Kings 19:12

Bitter cold and velvet-black darkness enveloped Perry Park. Lake Erie lay frozen solid; drifts of snow replaced the whitecaps. Stars and planets dotted the clear night sky. From Kelley's Island, lights trembled on the horizon, and the steady beacon atop Perry's Monument gave shape to the night.

And yet—silence.
Complete, total silence along the shoreline.
Waves and wind were swallowed by a frozen stillness.

Now there was a great wind, so strong it split mountains and shattered rocks before the Lord—but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind, an earthquake—but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake, a fire—but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire, a sound of sheer silence.

When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out, standing at the entrance of the cave. Then a voice came to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" We lean on God in the storms of life—the winds that uproot us, the earthquakes that shatter what we thought unbreakable,
the fires that melt and remake our deepest convictions.

But it is in the silence that we hear God,
in the quiet breath of the Spirit:
"What are you doing here, my child?"

May you find silence in your visit to Lakeside—
silence that quiets the noise of your soul,
silence that heals the wounds of your spirit,
silence that gently probes the questions of your heart.

"What are you doing here, my child?"
BY MARILYN RODDY

Prayer prompts:
God, what might you be whispering to me in silence?
Where do I need to stop struggling and clamoring, and simply listen for your still, small voice?

19. Sacred Steps

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?" ~Micah 6:8

You can miss it if you're not looking. Tucked away near the pool and Drackett Hall, intersecting the Wellness Park, the short "Esther Path" meanders back toward Jasmine Avenue. And yet, despite its unheralded nature, it is sacred to me.

Each time I walk it, I find myself wondering how many steps and how many memories it holds. Meditative morning strolls, brisk fitness walks, toddler wanderings, young love moving hand in hand. Generations have passed through this narrow space.

There is something fitting about its brevity, its quiet purpose. The path is not terribly impressive, and yet, it reminds me that a life shaped by God's strength and love is rarely showy. More often, it is ordinary; formed through intentional steps, small choices, and the slow accumulation of lived days.

Sometimes, however, life has a way of quickening our pace. The swirl of the everyday presses in, thinning our attention, scattering our sense of what matters. We move faster, but often with less awareness of where we are going.

The "Esther Path" resists that urgency. It asks for little; only that you notice, that you walk, that you allow a few steps to be enough.

And perhaps that is its quiet gift: to take the next step along a path easily forgotten. To create memories, to keep moving, and with each step, to feel the ground grow steadier, held firm by the abiding presence of everlasting Love.

BY STAFF

Prayer prompts:

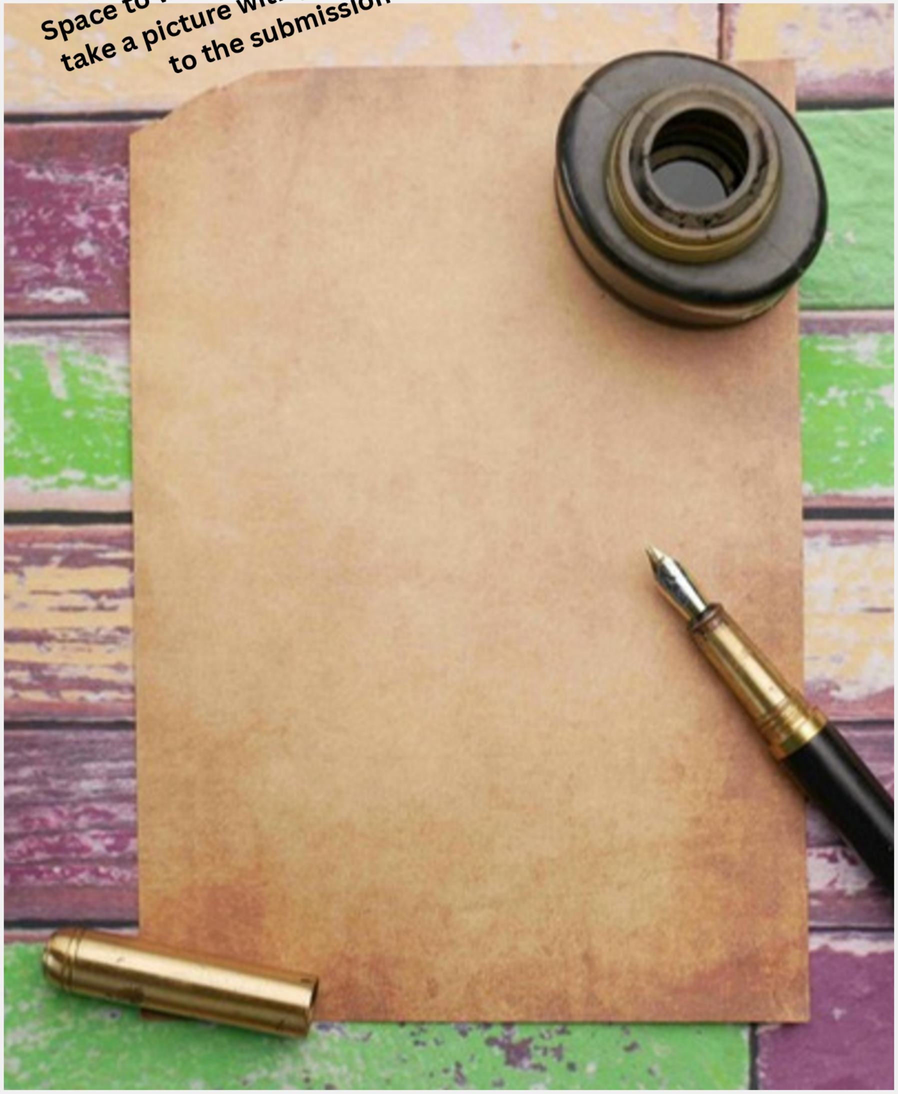
Lord, what small step of faithfulness are you asking me to take today?

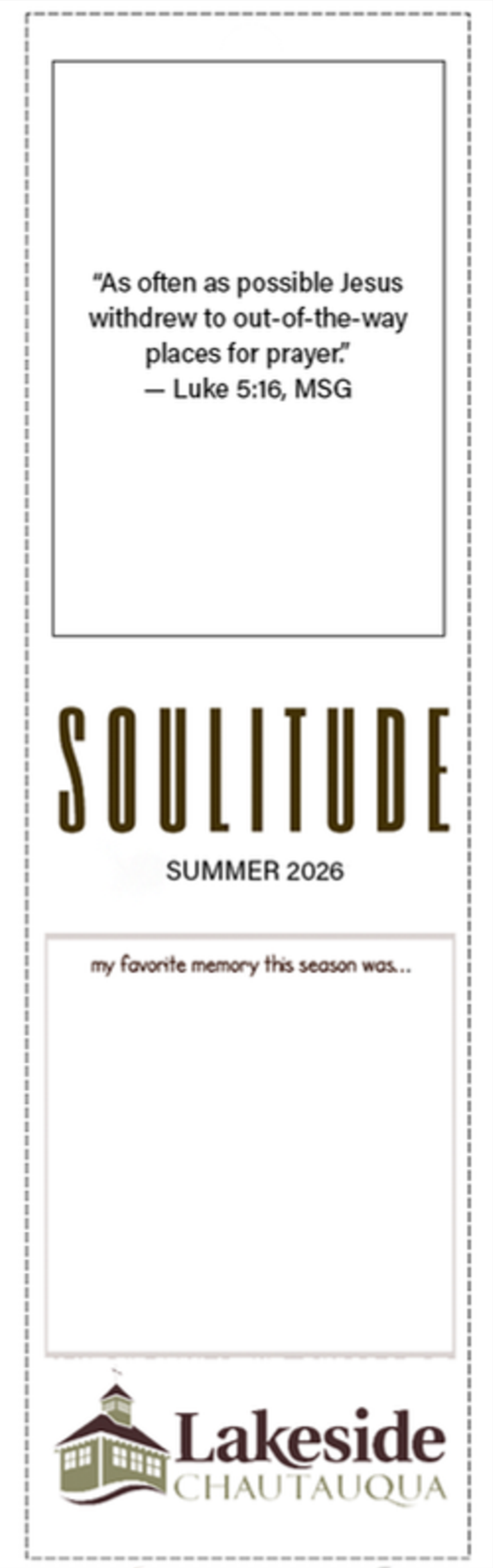
As I move through my day, help me to be open to ordinary paths, slow growth, and quiet routines.

Your voice matters. Submit a devotional for consideration for inclusion in the **SUMMER 2027 SOULITUDE** devotional magazine.

Submission link: https://dub.sh/LKSDDEVO2027
Deadline: Friday, March 5, 2027

Space to write your own 250-word devotional, take a picture with your phone, and upload it to the submission link above.





"As often as possible Jesus withdrew to out-of-the-way places for prayer."
— Luke 5:16, MSG

SOULITUDE
SUMMER 2026

my favorite memory this season was...

Lakeside CHAUTAUQUA

bookmark

For 153 years, Lakesiders have been planting seeds of generosity. When our community gives of their time, talent and treasure, these seeds are watered to grow and multiply each year, blooming to create the vibrant, enriching Chautauqua experience we cherish.

Giving link: https://bit.ly/LKSDGIVE

"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."
~ John Muir, Scottish-American naturalist

Re-vision. Re-focus. Re-new.